ECE Highlights

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Editorial

Donner vie aux réformes

La fête est finie. À l'image de la CEE, elle fut sérieuse, voire quelque peu austère. Les bougies éteintes, restent un accord unanime sur le rôle de la Commission au sein de l'ONU et l'impératif de mettre en œuvre les réformes agréées. Impératif, parce ce que s'il en allait autrement, la Commission perdrait le soutien des gouvernements et serait emportée dans le fort mouvement de concurrence institutionnelle qui a saisi le monde international.

Aujourd'hui la réforme est consignée dans un Plan d'action : c'est un point de départ indispensable; mais les documents de cette nature s'entassent sur les étagères et sont vite oubliés au profit d'une nouvelle idée de réforme qui, elle-même... On connaît cela. Il nous faut donc donner rapidement vie aux réformes pour en récolter les fruits. Donner vie, c'est donner un corps et une âme et c'est l'affaire de tous, secrétariat et pays membres.

Le corps d'abord. C'est la mise en œuvre de la lettre des réformes. Nous avons commencé. Au secrétariat, le personnel a été redéployé conformément au Plan d'action, la Division de l'industrie abolie, l'Unité spéciale de coordination créée. Les bureaux des organes subsidiaires sont informés de la teneur du Plan d'action et les dispositions sont prises pour que les comités définissent leur programme de travail dans les limites des ressources allouées, décident de la nature de leurs organes subsidiaires (groupe de travail et groupe d'experts), établissent les coopérations requises au sein de la Commission et hors de celle-ci, modifient, enfin, leur méthode de travail. Accepter les changements d'habitude n'est pas toujours facile, et l'appui des délégations est nécessaire. Heureusement, dans les semaines récentes, il est apparu qu'une fois les réticences vaincues, les changements de méthode apportaient un souffle nouveau.

Un souffle nouveau, nous voici à l'âme de la réforme : un changement d'état d'esprit, sans lequel les réformes resteront formelles même si elles sont appliquées. Changer d'état d'esprit n'est pas facile et, là, beaucoup reste à faire. Chacun a, sans

(Suite à la p. 2.)

(For the English translation, see p. 16.)

Regional vs. global: a national and international issue

Susan Bartolo joined the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) on 1 February 1996. Prior to that she had worked in Geneva with DHA and in New York with the secretariat of ACABQ and with what was then the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, most recently referred to as DDSMS. She now has three functions: Secretary to the Commission, Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary and overall responsibility for ECE Administration.

ECE Highlights: ***Did you know anything about ECE before coming?***

Susan Bartolo: I knew only a little about ECE—mostly from having "covered" it during ACABQ meetings on the budget. When ACABQ came to Geneva, I also had the opportunity to listen to the head of ECE explaining ECE activities to the Committee. But I have to admit that I didn't know a lot about ECE—and all that I knew was superficial. And, this will get me into trouble . . . but I used to think it was somewhat boring too. That is why I now so much appreciate the fact that ECE is marketing itself better, because the reaction in New York, and not just mine, was too often why does Europe need a

regional commission. In addition, to some extent, we are a victim of our title: when people hear economic anything they are put off. They perceive economics as dry and theoretical and don't see the practical side of it—the application of economics to their daily lives.

What have you discovered in ECE as far as its work is concerned?

A lot! As I said, before, I only had a vague notion of its work relating to conventions, norms and standards. Now I am learning how those norms, conventions and standards really affect everyone. A simple example and one that is quoted by many, but it's a good one: the fact that you can go from one country to another in Europe without having new sets of road signs. Or that trucks can go through borders without long delays as long as they have that magic TIR sign. Then of course, all the environment work . . .

What are good reasons to keep the regional commissions?

Well, first of all, they do a lot of good work—work that could not so easily be achieved at the global level. By this I mean that it is better sometimes if you are doing things to start them at a lower level with a narrower scope and then extend the work to the global level. That is where the regional commissions are good and there are countless examples of this approach having been successful. It's really very logical and if you stop and think how we do things in our lives, this is a debate which is not limited to the United Nations. In my own country, this sort of discussion has been going on for years: should the federal Government decide on policies for all the states or should the states be allowed to implement what works for them with the idea being that, if it is successful at the lower level, it could be applied nationally. I have perhaps simplified it too much but the situations are similar.

How would you reform the United Nations?

That is a tough question. You can always answer it as if you had a free hand but that would not be realistic. So you have to answer it in the context of the latitude you would realistically have. To answer briefly, I would like to simplify a lot of procedures. Even that is easier said than done, I know. Many things are linked with various policies and decisions taken by Member States. But I still believe that even within those constraints, there is room for simplification—for the development of simpler systems. I certainly don't pretend to say it would be easy and it would take, in some instances, a lot of "selling" to Member States that certain things would be done in a different manner. One example is the simplification of the budget preparation process. I realize a balance must be struck—enough information must be given etc. and Member States must be assured that the money they contribute is being used in the best possible way. But when I think of the months and months of time spent by countless people on this process I just think that there has to be a better way. Of course it's easy to say that without having the full answer of how to simplify it. And I don't pretend to have the answer. BUT!

ECE has one of the worst records in hiring women. How do you explain that?

I am not in a position to explain what the background of the situation is, having only been here one year. It's true that some of the posts are very specialized which may explain it in part. For example, recently we had a case for which a man was recommended. This was a case where one internal (male) and 50 external candidates had applied, of which only one was a woman. Maybe there are women out there doing the same sort of work. But was the advertising done in the right places? Maybe, in the case of such specialized posts, the United Nations has not done the necessary outreach. Well, this might explain in some cases why women weren't selected. As for the rest—well, it's probably a combination of factors. I don't have the feeling that there is an anti-women feeling in ECE. In any event, we are now making a concerted effort to attract good women candidates. And I want to emphasize good—because no one wants to sacrifice quality just to get a woman on board. And selecting a woman for the sake of her gender if she's not the right person for the job does a disservice to the woman herself.❑

(Suite de la p. 1.)

Donner vie aux réformes

doute, son idée sur ce qu'il convient de changer. Je donnerai deux orientations.

Première orientation : *reconnaître que la transition avance, même si les progrès sont inégaux, et passer à la mise en place d'une Europe diverse mais intégrée; pour cela, chaque proposition sur les facteurs et instruments de cette intégration mérite d'être examinée, sans faire l'objet de suspicion ou d'adhésion* a priori *selon le pays qui la formule.*

Seconde orientation : *prendre au sérieux le mot flexibilité qui sous-tend la réforme. Flexibilité veut dire que tout n'est pas permanent, et le corollaire en est que des nouveautés peuvent être introduites. Faute d'accepter des initiatives, qu'elles viennent du secrétariat ou d'un pays membre, la réforme n'aura fait que restreindre le champ de la Commission.*

Ces deux orientations sont au fond deux illustrations d'un même appel : faire confiance à l'instrument qu'est la CEE-ONU et donc avoir le réflexe d'en utiliser tous les atouts.

Yves BERTHELOT
21 juillet 1997

The Secretary-General Opens the 50th Anniversary Jubilee Session of the Economic Commission for Europe

21 to 24 April 1997

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Mr. Yves Berthelot, UN/ECE Executive Secretary, at the Commission's 50th anniversary jubilee session.

The 50th anniversary session of the Economic Commission for Europe was opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and by formal statements by a number of ministers and delegations of member States on how the reform process and the Commission's new strategic directions should strengthen ECE as an instrument for the promotion of economic cooperation, peace and stability in the region. All were gathered for the occasion in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations.

In his opening statement, the Secretary-General stressed not only the role played by ECE during the difficult time of the cold war and during the period of economic transition for a number of countries of the region, but also the role to be played by the Commission in coming years. He especially insisted that it was necessary for the United Nations to have a regional dimension and lauded the dynamic character of the reform undertaken by the Commission. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of partnerships between all actors: Governments, businesses, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and individuals. He reaffirmed that the role of the United Nations was to support and foster this movement towards partnerships. ECE delegations also signalled the priority they accorded to strengthening and intensifying cooperative partnerships with these actors in referring to it in the Declaration on strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region and the Plan of Action they adopted on 22 April.

This Declaration and accompanying Plan of Action which conclude an important effort at reform which was launched in 1995, highlight the strategic directions adopted by the Commission in order to facilitate and strengthen the involvement of all its member countries in harmonious and efficient economic relations. The Declaration notes that "it is essential to foster forms of cooperation that promote economic prosperity for all member countries and respond to the needs of an increasingly interdependent world economy". It vows to keep the Commission relevant and flexible as the next century begins.

The round-table discussion on Forging Partnerships between the ECE, Governments, Enterprises and Non-Governmental Organizations *held during the Commission's 50th anniversary session brought together representatives from public service, the business community and organizations within civil society who are involved in ECE activities and users of its products.*

Mr. Valery Serov, Vice Prime Minister of the Government of the Russian Federation (left) *and Mr. Yves Berthelot, Executive Secretary of UN/ECE* (right) *shaking hands after the signing of the Memorandum between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Inter-State Economic Committee of the Economic Union of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).*

The reform package

The reforms detailed in the Plan of Action include a refocusing and strengthening of the Commission's activities in those strategic areas which correspond to the proven advantages of ECE, which are sustainable in the long run and for which there is widespread support throughout the region. These are: environment; transport; trade; industry and enterprise development; statistics; economic analysis; energy; and human settlements.

The Commission's programme of work will be streamlined as a result of rationalization, consolidation and suppression of obsolete elements, resulting in a total reduction of 60 per cent in the number of programme elements. This reduction is in turn reflected in the new intergovernmental structure, which is reduced from 14 to seven principal subsidiary bodies. The resources thus liberated are to be dedicated to core areas of work considered to be the strengths of ECE.

Also included in the plan is a ''consultative mechanism'' under which some activities may be discontinued and new ones introduced. In addition there is a structure for organizing activities to meet specific requests from subgroups of member countries, in particular countries in transition and the Mediterranean countries of ECE.

The overall aims of the reform package are described as focus, flexibility and efficiency.

Round-table and other discussions

Two high-level round-table discussions were held during the session. One was devoted to ''Building Cohesion in Europe: Technical Answers to a Political Aspiration''. Panellists participating in the discussion stressed the variety of integration processes at work in the European region—a term which all agreed no longer had any precise geographical meaning—and the important role that ECE could play in helping to build a new cohesion among them. The second round table was on ''Forging Partnerships between the ECE, Governments, Enterprises and Non-Governmental Organizations''. The discussion offered an opportunity for participants to illustrate how ECE activities and concrete achievements respond to their needs and facilitate cooperation among them.

The Commission, discussed over the course of the session, along with enacting reforms, diversification of activities designed to assist countries in transition to market economies; cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations; and the work of the Commission's subsidiary bodies. A memorandum was also signed between the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Inter-State Economic Committee of the Economic Union of the Commonwealth of Independent States which aims at promoting the application of the norms and standards developed by UN/ECE in the countries of the CIS.

Adoption of decisions

At the conclusion of its session the Commission adopted three decisions related to the endorsement by ECOSOC of the use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard for Facilitation of International Trade Procedures; a new United Nations International Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities, and a recommendation that ECOSOC endorse the Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe and the Plan of Action.

Election of officers

The Commission elected Ambassador Peter Naray (Hungary) as its new Chairman and Ambassador Eveline Herfkens (Netherlands), Ambassador Michael Bartolo (Malta) and Mr. Mykola Maimeskul (Ukraine) were elected to serve as Vice-Chairpersons.❑

ECE Celebrates Fifty Eventful Years—1947-1997

Its History and Role in a Changing European Environment

All international organizations with European responsibilities have felt the impact of the events which are transforming the political, economic and social order in the region and the Economic Commission for Europe figures prominently among them. During the five decades of its existence the Commission has been a centre for region-wide economic cooperation in the framework of the United Nations. Since its establishment in 1947 it has met the needs of its member countries who share a common history and closely linked economic interests. It has adapted to the alternating conditions of the cold war, *détente* and the subsequent post-cold war era of reconciliation which has been characterized by integration and fragmentation at the same time.

In recent years the Commission has strikingly transformed its long-standing role as a bridge between east and west into the role of promoting the integration of all

the countries of the region, particularly the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy. The sharp rise in ECE membership over the past few years from 34 to 55 member countries, almost half of which are considered countries in transition, has swept away the concept of ECE as "a club of the rich". These changes have created new needs and have called for new types of cooperation and have rendered some of the Commission's activities obsolete. Today, with its expanded membership, UN/ECE is the forum at which the countries of North America, western, central and eastern Europe and central Asia come together to forge the tools of their economic cooperation. Now on the threshold of the twenty-first century ECE looks ahead to new prospects and new ways of making use of its know-how and its proven advantages for the benefit of its member countries.

The reforms

1990 reform

A major turning-point came in 1990. At that time, the Commission decided to give highest priority to five programmes: namely, environmental protection, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis. Two guiding principles were established. The first was that the concept of sustainable development should permeate all ECE programmes. Secondly, the Commission underscored the importance of activities which would assist countries of central and eastern Europe to make the transition from centrally-planned to market economies.

At the same time, developments and trends in the region since 1990 have brought to the fore a number of major orientations within the programme of work of ECE which both reinforce and transcend specific sectors of work, including priority areas. They comprise the internalization of reforms; integration of the economies in transition; environmental protection and sustainable development; and technical assistance to the countries in transition. The concept of major orientations has proved a useful tool for bringing the cross-sectoral aspects of the Commission's work in line with its priority areas and guiding principles.

1997 reform

Another turning-point occurred in 1995 with the launching of a forward-looking review process of the strategic directions of the Commission's future activities. The reform was formally adopted by the Commission at its Jubilee Session on 21-22 April 1997. The details of the reform package are discussed on page 3 of this issue.

Ongoing adaptation

1947-1957

When the Commission was established in 1947 with eighteen Charter members during a period of growing international tension, it was given the mandate of helping to rebuild post-war Europe, develop economic activity and strengthen economic relations between European countries and between them and other countries of the world. However, the Iron Curtain which separated East and West shortly after the establishment of ECE forced it to deal only with questions that were of common interest to east and west despite their different economic systems and their political ideological confrontation. During this period particular attention was devoted to setting up the operational machinery of the Commission and establishing its subsidiary bodies, especially the Committee on the Development of Trade, the Inland Transport Committee, the Committee on Agricultural Problems and the Industry and Materials Committee.

1957-1967

The second decade of ECE coincided with a period of unprecedented economic growth in the region. Economic cooperation within the subregional economic groupings in Europe intensified and, at the same time there was a more active search for, and strengthening of, region-wide cooperation with ECE. Membership rose to thirty-one countries and the organizational structure was extended. This decade culminated in the Declaration adopted by a Ministerial Meeting held in 1967 to commemorate the Commission's twentieth anniversary. The Declaration urged "the development of new forms of cooperation" mentioning such areas as models and projections of economic development, management of enterprises, a greater degree of scientific and technological cooperation and promotion of tourism. In addition to trade and industry problems, the Commission embarked upon programmes in coal, gas and electric power; water pollution; engineering industries and automation; chemical industry; science and technology; and problems of southern Europe.

1967-1977

The 1967 Declaration provided a basis for the strengthened cooperation which was to characterize developments over most of the third decade, during which the Commission's membership expanded to 34, covering all countries of Europe, Canada and the United States of America. A marked trend in favour of more intensive and wider cooperation was evident during this period. Greater attention was devoted to obstacles to east-west trade and trade practices; concentration and integration of the ECE programme of work; problems of ECE countries which were developing from an economic point of view; and United Nations programmes designed to assist less-developed countries. The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975, provided new impetus for the Commission's work.

1977-1987

The Commission's work programme continued to reflect the changing economic situation in the region as well as new concerns of member Governments. Priority continued to be accorded to trade, transport, environment, science and technology and economic projections. In the field of trade, in addition to the trade policy ques-

Milestones

1947

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is set up on a trial basis to promote concerted action for European economic reconstruction following the Second World War. ECE is the first of five regional commissions established by the Economic and Social Council.

1951

ECE becomes a permanent organ of the United Nations.

1967

New fields of activity open up in the areas of environmental protection, energy policy, economic analysis, industrial cooperation, standardization and science and technology. In response, ECE is restructured, its working methods reviewed and its coordination improved. Trade, environment, science and technology and economic projections are given priority.

1975

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), in the parts of the Helsinki Final Act concerning cooperation in economics, science, technology and the environment, refers to activities which could be intensified or undertaken by ECE. The Commission adapts its programme accordingly. At subsequent meetings in Madrid, Bonn and Budapest, CSCE places particular emphasis on the role of ECE.

1990

Following the momentous political and economic changes in central and eastern Europe, ECE adopts new priorities: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis. Sustainable development is made a guiding principle of all ECE activities.

1995

The number of ECE member countries reaches 55. A regional advisory service is set up to help countries in transition in implementing the recommendations and regulations adopted by ECE. A review of the role of ECE to the year 2000 is launched.

1997

ECE celebrates its fiftieth anniversary at a high-level Jubilee Session and adopts a Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe and a Plan of Action which provides a comprehensive framework for translating into action the strategic directions highlighted in the Declaration, thus providing a new thrust for ECE work in the years ahead.

tions transitionally covered, increasing attention was given to obstacles to trade; trade promotion; seminars on marketing and improved business contacts; compensation trade; and trade facilitation.

A particularly noteworthy event was the High-level Meeting within the framework of ECE on the Protection of the Environment, held in 1979, which adopted a Convention and Resolution on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and a Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Re-utilization and Recycling of Wastes.

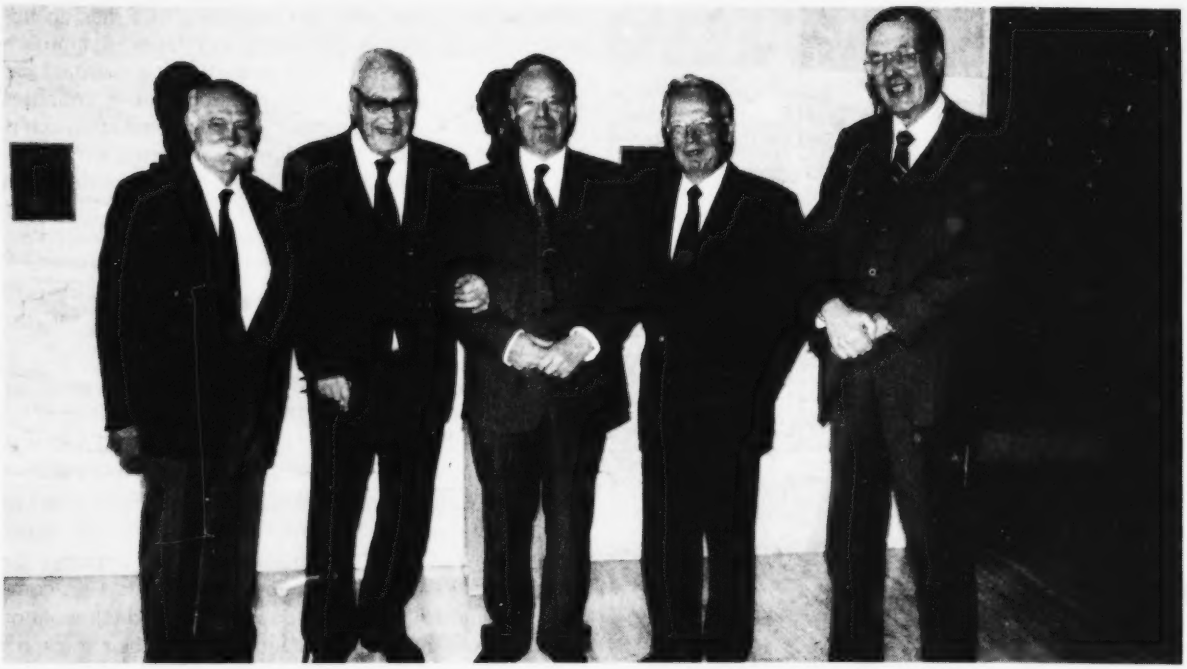
ECE work on economic projections assumed added importance with the undertaking of an Overall Economic Perspective for the ECE Region to the Year 2000 which was completed in 1988. In addition, increased attention was devoted to general energy questions in response to the "oil shocks" which had taken place during this decade. A principal subsidiary body, the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy, was established on an ad hoc basis in 1977. Particular importance was placed on energy conservation. In the transport sector, new emphasis was given to studies of multimodal transport along main axes and technical support for the project on the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and transport links in the Mediterranean.

1987-1997

With the end of the cold war, the transition from a centrally-planned economy system to a market economy and the integration of the countries in transition into the global economy became the major concern. ECE was able to adapt by focusing its analytical capacity on the transition process and by using its experience of harmonization to facilitate the integration of the central and east European countries. ECE developed an entirely new form of assistance activity, consisting of seminars and workshops on aspects of the operation of the market economy and of advice provided by a team of specialists set up to help countries implement ECE recommendations, standards and conventions.❑

UN/ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Gunnar Myrdal (Sweden)	1947-1957
Sakari Tuomioja (Finland)	1957-1960
Vladimir Velebit (Yugoslavia)	1960-1967
Janez Stanovnik (Yugoslavia)	1968-1982
Klaus Sahlgren (Finland)	1983-1986
Gerald Hinteregger (Austria)	1987-1993
Yves Berthelot (France)	1993-



Past and present UN/ECE Executive Secretaries pose for pictures at the Commission's 50th anniversary session. From left to right are Janez Stanovnik, Vladimir Velebit, Yves Berthelot, Gerald Hinteregger and Klaus Sahlgren.

A LOOK AT THE PROVEN ADVANTAGES OF ECE

Stimulating the policy debate on transition processes

To meet the challenge of self-help to countries in transition to market economies, ECE provides comparative analysis for the policy debate in published format in order to serve as a ready reference for input into countries' own economic analysis. ECE's regular assessment of economic problems and developments in the transition economies is designed not only to inform but to provoke debate over policy options both within the transition economies and among the Governments and institutions providing them with assistance. The primary ECE vehicles for this analysis of reform are, among others, the *Economic Survey of Europe* and the *Economic Bulletin for Europe* and the ECE programme of workshops and seminars on specific issues of transition for private entrepreneurs, the business community and administrators, aimed at providing them with practical instruments and guidelines for the process of transition to a market economy. These activities have been strengthened with the arrival of Regional Advisers who render on-site assistance to countries in transition. Their task is to adapt the Commission's operational activities, within the purview of the ECE mandate, to the special needs of these countries, thus providing a network of experts to respond to country-specific problems.

Promoting regional integration

As a cornerstone of its work to promote the integration of all countries of the region, including the economies in transition, ECE has intensified its regulatory work on norms and standards, legal instruments, regional strategies, new infrastructures and guidelines in order to harmonize approaches to economic and socio-economic and sustainable development throughout the region. ECE work in this direction has been prominent in the priority areas of transport and trade facilitation and the methodological and harmonization work of the Conference of European Statisticians, as well as in agriculture and human settlements. An impressive record of conventions and agreements has been concluded among ECE member States that include agreements on transport infrastructure networks for roads, railways and combined transport lines, including the TEM and TER Conventions and on the facilitation of trade through the TIR Convention.

Indeed, 51 legal instruments have been elaborated in the framework of ECE in transport and a significant series of conventions in the field of the environment. Practical regulatory work of this kind is a key factor in the process of economic and social integration. Resource intensive work to promote and monitor implementation and compliance with these legal instruments and norms, as well as national environmental performance reviews, are becoming increasingly important with growing ECE membership.

ECE has also made important progress in its work in the field of standardization and harmonization of rules and regulations at the regional level. These achievements include the trade facilitation project (UN/EDIFACT—United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport), the construction of motor vehicles, the transport of dangerous goods, har-

This recently published booklet presents several of ECE's proven achievements in plain language and illustrations. By highlighting little-known activities, it contributes in its own original way to a renewal of the image of the United Nations.

monization and simplification of frontier and customs formalities, and standardization of agricultural products. This work has contributed significantly to promoting reform in the economies in transition and their integration with the economies of the ECE region as a whole, as well as, ultimately, with the global economy.

Fostering sustainable development in the region

With particular regard to the environment, the economic problems which member countries, especially countries in transition, are experiencing at present are a barrier to the achievement of sustainable development. With the deterioration of the macroeconomic framework, environmental issues have tended to slip down the list of Governments' priorities, where economic recovery or transition towards a market economy still figures prominently. In accordance with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, environmental concerns should form an integral part of the development process for the achievement of long-term sustainable economic development. This, in turn, calls for significant improvements in environmental planning and management and for the integration of environmental policies with other policies. In view of its membership, its cross-sectoral structure and its record of multilateral legally-binding instruments and policy documents in the field of environment and sustainable development, ECE has an important role to play in promoting an integrated approach to environmental issues and strengthening national capacities regarding sustainable development in countries in transition. An illustration of this integrated approach is the organization of the Regional Conference on Transport and Environment which will be held in Vienna from 11 to 14 November 1997 under the auspices of ECE. The Conference is expected to adopt a Declaration stating the commitment of ECE Governments to develop their transport systems in a way which reconciles the development of efficient transport with the improvement of the environment.

ECE has been in the forefront of the combat against air pollution problems since 1979, when the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) was prepared under its auspices. Since then, five Protocols under the Convention have been signed. They concern the reduction of SO_2, No_x and volatile organic compound emissions and the establishment of a region-wide monitoring system. This system, known as EMEP, comprises around 130 stations all over Europe which monitor not only emissions of pollutants but also their transport and depositions. Building on the success of existing protocols on sulphur and nitrogen emissions under the LRTAP, negotiations are under way on new protocols on persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals and a further protocol on nitrogen and related substances. ECE plays a strategic role in regional environmental policy-making by participating in the "Environment for Europe" process and the regional promotion of Agenda 21. In 1997, emphasis will be placed on the preparation of the fourth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe".

Extraregional outreach

The work of ECE has ramifications for the world at large. In the field of environment, the responsibilities of European and North American countries are global—a fact reflected in the emphasis on transboundary problems in the ECE work programme on air pollution, normalization, and the UN/EDIFACT system which is now used in virtually all parts of the world. In 1997 it was agreed to reorganize the structure and activities of the Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) into a Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport—CEFACT, to allow full participation of non-ECE member countries and international organizations.

Work on the development of road and railway systems and combined transport directly affects the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, while the TIR carnet system is one of the most valuable contributions of ECE to the rapid international movement of goods. Originally drawn up for European road transport, the TIR Convention has been adopted by many countries in other continents, and particularly in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

ECE also contributes to global United Nations programmes. In 1994 the Commission organized regional meetings in Europe in preparation for world conferences on population and on women. It contributed to the Habitat II Conference, the 50th Anniversary of the United

Nations and the Social Summit. The Commission is engaged in implementing the Agenda 21 programme adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. It is also engaged in the regional follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and Habitat II.❑

Partners

Cooperation with European institutions

Political, economic and social change in Europe, as just one of its consequences, highlights the forms of cooperation among international institutions and emphasizes their utility. Particularly owing to all these changes in Europe, the need for cooperation among international institutions is even more critical than in the past. As a pan-European forum for economic and environmental cooperation, ECE will find increased opportunities in the twenty-first century to contribute with other institutions to a new spirit of concerted action and common purpose in the region.

The Commission and its secretariat, in accordance with the provisions of decision O(45) and other major decisions, have further strengthened their cooperation and coordination of activities with other international organizations and institutions, including bodies of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The wide range of organizations with which ECE cooperates reflects its dual capacity as a United Nations programme and a regional body cooperating closely with other European institutions and organizations.. Its major partners include the European Union (EU), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), formerly CSCE, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), IMF and WTO. The rationale behind this cooperation stems from the complementarity of their respective mandates, membership and areas of activity. ECE brings to this intergovernmental cooperation, machinery which is tried, tested and supported by a secretariat with a vast pool of expertise and experience in key areas of economic analysis, policy assessment, the elaboration of norms, standards and legal instruments, as well as in more recent years, technical cooperation. This expertise is also provided to support specific activities initiated at the political level by subregional groupings such as the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Central European Initiative.

ECE also provides technical assistance to countries participating in the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), launched in December 1996 to enhance regional stability through the development of economic, environmental cooperation and the facilitation of border crossings.

Relations with other actors

Strengthening relationships with the business community is an integral part of the efforts made to adapt ECE activities to the changing realities of the region, including the emergence of the private sector in countries in transition. On the one hand, ECE provides an opportunity for the business community to express its concerns and to discuss policy issues with member States; on the other hand, ECE can get new ideas and fresh impetus from the business community on a number of issues, whilst making its products better known and used.

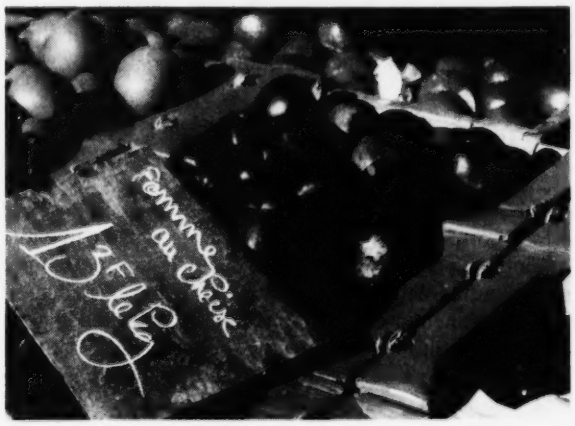
A number of professional and technical associations participate in the work of ECE principal subsidiary bodies and some of their related bodies. NGOs dealing with cross-sectoral concerns, such as sustainable development and the advancement of women, are also involved in activities of the Commission, while relations with academic institutions are developed in the field of economic analysis. NGOs are also participating actively in the negotiating process for the new ECE convention on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making. All of these non-governmental entities bring approaches and inputs that are complementary to those provided by Governments and the enterprise sector on issues addressed by ECE.❑

Looking at the Future of UN/ECE

ECE Directors were interviewed concerning their outlook on the future of the Commission's activities

Carol Cosgrove-Sacks, Director of the UN/ECE Trade Division

The work of the Trade Division is exciting. It comprises many different programmes ranging from trade promotion, trade facilitation, investment promotion in the transition economies, quality standards for fresh fruits and vegetables, forests and timber, and trade in steel and chemicals. One particular area which will have great relevance for the twenty-first century will be the work of the ECE Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT), which will promote trade facilitation through internationally agreed standards and regulations as well as through standardization policies and modern



trade techniques, especially UN/EDIFACT. In the future ECE will have a key role in the field of electronic commerce, and a priority is to position ECE to be a leader in technical support for electronic commerce.

The coming decade is very challenging for the Trade Division because it will not only be supporting the transition process of the central and eastern European countries to market economies but will also be involved in the intensification of trade throughout the ECE region. The most important work done in the Trade Division relates to norms and standards. It is the principal forum in the world for setting norms and standards in trade products. These norms and standards are of great significance for the European Union and the United States as well as for the countries in transition. This is the area of United Nations work where the public sector and the private sector meet. The activities of the various ECE working parties which set these norms and standards support the exchange of goods of specified quality and specified characteristics. Moreover, the ECE Working Party for Technical Harmonization brings together all of the major national and international standardization bodies. It is the umbrella organization which sets the framework within which standards are subsequently developed by ISO or by other standardization bodies.

The ECE countries are some of the most attractive market places for foreign direct investment. Here, ECE concentrates on establishing the best practice rules for investment promotion and the attraction of foreign direct investment. It also assists the transition countries to define what should be their legislative codes to support foreign direct investments. To this end, the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry prepares guides regarding how to attract FDI, how financing should be organized, and how the private and public sectors should get together to build the appropriate instruments for infrastructure development.

As far as forests and timber are concerned, two processes will have potential for linkages, namely, the pan-European ministerial process on the protection of forests in Europe and the "Environment for Europe" process. The Timber Section of the Trade Division recently completed the definitive analysis of timber market trends for the next decade and is currently assessing sustainable forest resources throughout the ECE region.

Finally, the Trade Division looks forward to new directions regarding industry and enterprise development. In 1998/1999 the focus will increasingly be on cross-sectoral issues to meet the demands of the member States for intergovernmental initiatives regarding linkages between the private and public sectors.❑

José Capel Ferrer, Director of the UN/ECE Transport Division

The strategic importance of the ECE work in the field of transport is based on the fact that increased economic development and integration of ECE countries require increased international transport and therefore increased intergovernmental cooperation. The overall objective of this cooperation is to develop coherent international transport networks and to facilitate and develop international transport while improving safety and environmental performance. Along this strategic line, ECE focuses its work on the development of a wide range of international legal instruments, regulations for construction of vehicles and recommendations. These instruments provide a common technical and legal basis for the development of coherent international infrastructure networks, for the improvement of efficiency, safety and environmental performance of the transport sector and for the facilitation of border-crossing in the ECE region.

ECE work in norms and standard-setting in this area will, in the coming decade, be twofold: (i) to develop new instruments and to continuously adapt the existing ones according to the needs of its member States in the region as a whole; and (ii) to support the effective implementation of the instruments adopted, particularly in countries in transition in order to facilitate their integration by bringing their transport systems in line with those in other countries of the region. The development of transport safety and environmental regulations will be the foremost priority area. ECE has already developed more than 100 regulations establishing uniform prescriptions for the construction of motor vehicles and parts, ranging from safety belts and children's passenger seats to noise and emissions which are applied not only in the ECE region but also by many countries worldwide. The share of regulations aimed at reducing the environmental impact of vehicles has been steadily increasing in recent years and should continue to increase in future. The Regional Conference on Transport and Environment (Vienna, 11-14 November 1997) is expected to give further impetus to this development. The eventual globalization of these motor vehicle norms will signify a guarantee for increased security and environmental protection worldwide. The development and implementation of international regulations for the safe carriage of dangerous products will also experience considerable intensification.

The ECE TIR Convention is a breakthrough in the international transport of goods by road throughout Europe. Under the TIR system no customs checks of the goods transported are carried out at the borders between the customs office of departure and the customs office at arrival, representing savings of time and resources. A lorry is thus able to cross Europe practically without

stopping at any border, except to show the TIR carnet, which has details of its cargo. The Convention has been adopted by many countries in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. A revision of the TIR Convention has just been negotiated and will provide more stringent conditions of access to the TIR regime as well as an international electronic control system to prevent customs frauds.

Another area where ECE will witness increased development will be in the continued enlargement of the European road infrastructure network, known as the "E" road network, in central and eastern Europe. ECE is making efforts to help its new member countries plan for the building and financing of new "E" road connections in their countries.❑

Kaj-Ole Bärlund, Director of the UN/ECE Environment and Human Settlements Division

The three pillars of ECE environment activities in the coming years will be the "Environment for Europe" process, environmental conventions and environmental performance reviews. In the field of human settlements, new instruments will be developed along the lines of the environmental performance reviews in the environmental sector. Among the ECE conventions, the new convention on public participation in environmental decision-making which is currently being negotiated will have a dramatic impact on the activities of ECE member countries, Governments and the public at large.

In the years to come, more emphasis on the problems of the implementation of the environmental conventions and instruments and deriving synergies from them will be crucial to the work of ECE. Because the ECE secretariat services all of its environmental conventions it should become the "glue" between the conventions after they are set up and become operational. The Commission has a tremendous opportunity to act as a focal point for providing advice and solutions to Governments as well as the steering bodies to these conventions.

While the boom on a political level for the environment may have slightly faded in recent months, the legislation approved during the past years has provided a better and more stable foundation for long-term action than what existed 10 years ago. Due to these developments, ECE has been able to establish, in a short period of time, outreach in cross-sectoral cooperation inside the secretariat and between governments on energy, transport and outside ECE, on health. In the coming years, ECE will continue along these lines and establish better cross-sectoral linkages.❑

Paul Rayment, Deputy Director and Officer-in-Charge, of the UN/ECE Division for Economic Analysis and Projections

One result of the restructuring exercise has been to reinforce ECE's work in economic analysis, especially of the economies of eastern Europe and the CIS. From 1998 we have been asked to produce three issues of the *Survey* a year. All three will provide an overview of macroeconomic developments in the region with emphasis on the transition economies—and so there will be a more regular reporting on current developments. The first issue of each volume will focus on developments in the ECE region in the past and coming year, with special emphasis on the transition economies and their relations with the rest of the world; it will also deal with selected structural and institutional aspects of the transition process—that will occupy the traditional slot of the current annual *Survey*. The second, which is the additional issue, will also address selected topics in other areas of ECE's work, or issues which have been highlighted as specially urgent or important. Publication of this one might coincide with the summer meeting of ECOSOC. The third will focus on the trade and external

financial relations of the transition economies and will replace the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*, although fulfilling much the same function.

The proposed new format reflects the high regard which most member Governments have for the *Survey* and *Bulletin*. But we also ran a survey last year, of the opinions of professional economists in academic and research circles, and in the business sector—and I was very gratified when the results showed an overwhelming majority expressing high appreciation not only for the quality and usefulness of the publications, but also support for maintaining the Executive Secretary's independence in deciding what we should publish. That independence is preserved under the new arrangements—and it is valued by virtually all member countries. This was very well expressed in 1986—before the Berlin Wall collapsed—in a classic statement of principle, by the British Ambassador at the Commission Session: "We cannot agree with every aspect of the secretariat's analysis. That, however, is not the point . . . It is important that the *Survey* continues to be a product of independent, objective research against which we can all measure our own national policies. This work is an asset to member Governments whatever their economic persuasion, and its independence should be carefully preserved." That was the principle established by Myrdal and defended by all his successors, and not the least by Mr. Berthelot. Amid all the changes going on around us there must be some constants reflecting basic values—and this is one of them.□

George Kowalski, Director of the UN/ECE Energy Division

The ECE energy programme of work will be reoriented according to the reform package and the new intergovernmental structure will be put into place before the end of the year. One innovation will be the renaming and restructuring of the Committee on Energy into the Committee on Sustainable Energy. Priority emphasis will be given to three areas, namely, sustainable energy policies, energy efficiency and natural gas. However, a number of programme elements in the fields of coal (market adaptation, clean coal technologies) and electric power (international interconnection of electric power systems) will be retained.

Concerning the first priority goal of promoting sustainable energy policies, particular emphasis will be placed on the development of norms, standards and guidelines for energy production and use as well as the harmonization of the legal framework and government energy policies underpinning energy markets for the ECE region as a whole. The second emphasis of promoting greater energy efficiency use in countries of central and eastern Europe and the CIS will be achieved by focusing on practical solutions such as concentrating activities on energy efficiency demonstration zones, providing training at the local community level, identifying bankable energy efficiency projects and mobilizing financial institutions for their implementation. In the next three-year phase of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, there will be much more emphasis put on monitoring and measuring the impact of energy efficiency measures in demonstration zones and then drawing conclusions from them. Within the next two to three years it should be possible to measure the productive value of the measures implemented in these zones.

In the field of natural gas, priority will continue to be given to promoting the use of and trade in gas as well as international gas network interconnections between western, central and eastern European and CIS countries. Furthermore, the ECE Gas Centre will continue to provide technical assistance to transition countries in the economic and policy fields to facilitate their transition and integration into the European and world gas markets on the basis of market-economy principles and practices. This will benefit not only eastern Governments and gas companies but also their western counterparts by facilitating future dialogue, discussions, investments and trade in gas.

The ECE outreach efforts to non-ECE countries in the field of energy will continue and even be strengthened. The Gas Centre has already initiated some outreach activities with a number of neighbouring countries in the Middle East and Africa. The major non-ECE coal-producing countries have worked with ECE countries, under the auspices of ECE, to formulate and develop an international framework classification for fossil fuels and mineral reserves and resources. The ECE Energy Efficiency 2000 Project is collaborating with ESCAP on energy efficiency initiatives in central Asia. It is envis-

aged that cooperative projects with other United Nations regional commissions and other United Nations agencies will increase under the restructured programme of work.❑

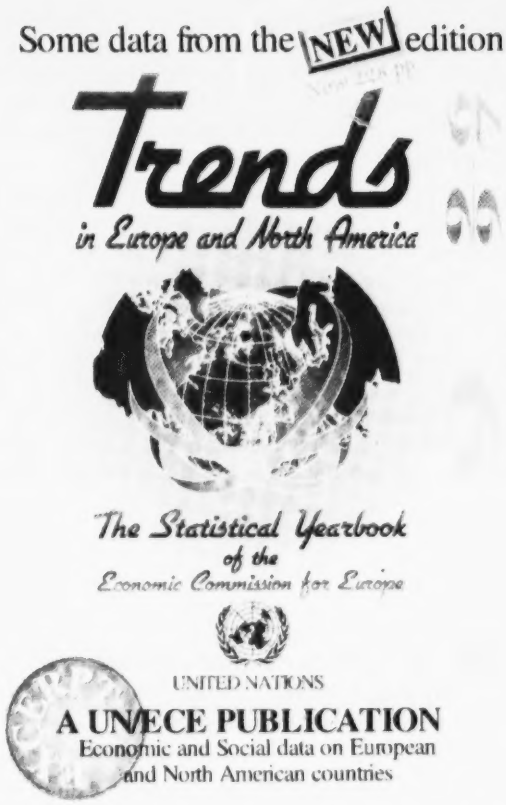
Tom Griffin, Director of the UN/ECE Statistical Division

The work of ECE in the field of statistics falls into three main areas. The first area is that of the Conference of European Statisticians, which has its plenary session in June and brings together the heads of national statistical services of all countries in the region as well as the other OECD member countries. The Conference not only decides on its own programme of work of its own expert groups but also considers the work programmes of all international organizations active in the region such as Eurostat, OECD and world-level organizations such as IMF and ILO. One day of its two and a half day plenary session is devoted to the discussions of a substantive topic. This year's discussion topic will be the management of information technologies.

The Conference's "Coordinator of coordinators" role has developed greatly in the last few years and remains our dominant activity; but two other areas are developing more rapidly. One is the gathering and disseminating of data (in cooperation with national statistical offices, Eurostat, OECD, IMF, ILO, etc.) ranging from major macroeconomic aggregates to social and population statistics, principally on the countries in transition but also on all ECE countries. The Division for Economic Analysis and Projections is responsible for publishing most of the economic statistics which the Statistical Division collects. For other statistics, the Statistical Division has launched its annual *Trends in Europe and North America*. It contains a comprehensive range of statistics on all ECE member countries illustrated with maps, charts and text. Other ECE Divisions too are collecting and disseminating a wide range of statistics in their own areas of work.

The third area is technical assistance to countries in transition. In addition to the work of a Regional Adviser in economic statistics, a UNDP Project on social and demographic statistics financed at first by UNDP has been concerned with important issues such as reporting on social trends and the population census, and it will now be resumed with finance from UNDP and UNFPA. This is especially significant for newly independent States which have never undertaken independent censuses before and have experienced enormous changes in migration, fertility and mortality. The current project deals with all transition countries in the region, but an additional project for Bosnia (which will cover economic and social statistics) is expected to start in 1997.

The changes ECE is likely to witness in the future will stem from the broad-ranging economic and political changes that have already occurred in the region, where conflict and suspicion between East and West have changed to collaboration and cooperation. In the future international organizations, many of which have greatly expanded their activities in the ECE region, will work together more closely. ECE is well placed to collaborate with other organizations and help coordinate international activity. A good example is the coordinating role ECE is already playing in international statistical work in the ECE region. The development of this role has been the major achievement of the Division in the last few years, and is an example of how ECE can become even more effective than before while other international institutions are being created or are expanding their activities in our region.❑



Anatoli Boiko, Director of the UN/ECE Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities

As the former Director of the ECE Industry and Technology Division, Mr. Boiko first addressed those activities in the field of industry which are now being undertaken within the framework of the renamed Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development where two Groups of Experts will be formed on steel and chemicals. Whilst the programme of work will be fixed by these bodies, a number of activities are expected to be taken up as they relate to the orientations defined in the Plan of Action, namely, enterprise development, restructuring policies and environmental aspects of industrial activities.

A promising area of work is the environmental clean-up of selected sites polluted by chemicals. ECE has already received 42 proposals for the clean-up of polluted sites in response to a questionnaire sent out to the countries in transition. A team of international experts was set up to evaluate all the proposals, seven of which were chosen as high priority. ECE is expected to assist interested countries in securing funding for the proposed projects from Governments and other donors. This is

extremely important for the countries in transition, in particular for cleaning up former military bases, among other sites. Another important project which will continue to be developed is cooperation with the European Commission on CHEMLEX, a comparative data bank on chemical legislation in ECE member countries.

Private sector companies and business associations will continue to be involved in the ECE activities retained in the industrial fields of chemicals and steel. In fact, a Trust Fund for Industry, Structural Change and Development has been set up and supported by contributions from Governments and the private sector. Contributors include Austria, Belgium, Japan and the Republic of Korea. A total of US$ 800,000 is provided each year which allows ECE to have professional staff members in addition to its regular staff. While working with ECE they acquire valuable international experience and in turn they impart their expertise to the United Nations. Meetings will be convened in the future in the steel sector dealing with the restructuring of the steel industry as well as with metallurgy and ecology.

In his capacity as Director of the new ECE Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities, Mr. Boiko described the role of the Unit as well as its future activities. He pointed out that the Unit will respond to the needs of: specific groups of countries in transition; sets of countries belonging to the same subregion; or groups of countries spread throughout the region but having a common interest in a specific issue. It will use flexible methods of work and its activities will mainly take the form of workshops and seminars. The identification of issues will be demand-driven and Regional Advisers may facilitate the identification of topics of common interest to several countries.❑

ECE UPDATE

Protecting the Environment by Saving Energy: UN/ECE Responds to New Challenges

"Energy conservation is beginning to play an increasingly important role in western European countries, where the potential for reducing energy-related emissions by conventional "add-on" approaches has to a large extent been exhausted. In western Europe, up to 25 per cent of sulphur emissions can be cut through energy-saving measures and changes in the fuel mix. In central and eastern European countries including the former Soviet Union, this figure would be around 50 per cent", stresses Mr. K. Bärlund, Director of the Environment and Human Settlements Division of UN/ECE.

To fully harness the potential of energy conservation for reducing adverse environmental impacts, there is an urgent need to jointly assess energy and environmental policies. In response to this challenge, the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy decided recently to prepare a White Paper and Guidelines on European Energy Conservation. The White Paper will draw on the best experi-

Drawings on pages 12 and 14 by Martin Guhl.

ence available in the region in enhancing energy conservation and on results of case studies to be undertaken in a number of eastern European economies in transition. It will outline saving potentials and policy options including environmental assessments. The White Paper and the Guidelines on European Energy Conservation will be submitted to the fourth Ministerial Conference "Environment in Europe" to be held in Aarhus, Denmark in June 1998.

This ECE endeavour is the first major international energy-related exercise to be pursued jointly by government-designated energy and environment experts. The initiative is being supported by the Government of Denmark which has taken the lead with ECE in coordinating the experts. Broad participation will include the ECE Committee on Energy through the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project. The International Energy Agency in Paris and the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Energy Charter Treaty will be actively involved in the process. The new initiative is expected to support the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Protocol of the Energy Charter Treaty when the protocol has been ratified.❑

RECENT ECE PUBLICATIONS

International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

There is still a considerable amount of international migration between countries in central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. A sizeable portion is due to short-term labour migration by young, male workers eager to escape from poor economies and earn money either by working or trading abroad. These are some of the findings just published by ECE in *International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States*. The volume represents a significant contribution to the understanding of the new migration patterns in central and eastern Europe and is essential reading for policy makers, administrators, researchers and students. This publication contains previously unpublished data from a variety of sources, obtained and analysed by national experts. The first chapter provides an overview of the major migration flows and issues, covering all of central and eastern Europe and the CIS. The following country studies discuss the situation in 11 selected countries of central and eastern Europe. There is also a brief chapter discussing pertinent issues of international migration in the Commonwealth of Independent States.❑

International Migration in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Sales No. GV. E.96.0.22, US$ 28.00.

The Changing Lives of Young Norwegian Women

Norwegian women fit more into their lives as young adults. They now remain in education as long as men, and often delay starting a family in order to get ahead with their career. The recently published *Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region, Standard Country Report, Norway* highlights the more subtle aspects of behavioural change, such as the onset of sexual relationships, the use of modern contraception, and "living apart together". Norway is the first in a series of comparable country reports, which examine new trends and patterns of partnership and reproductive behaviour in Europe and North America. The full series will encompass some 20 ECE member States including many of the newly formed States in central and eastern Europe. The reports are the result of a comprehensive survey research programme on partnership and reproductive behaviour which the Population Activities Unit of ECE began in the 1980s with the support from the United Nations Population Fund.❑

Turid Noack and Lars Ostby, *Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region*, Standard Country Report, Norway, Sales No. GV. E.96.0.32, US$ 25.00.

ECE AGENDA

Selected Events 1997

July

2-4 Meeting of Parties to the Water Convention (Helsinki, Finland)

7-10 Working Group for the preparation of a draft Convention on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making

(*Continued on next page.*)

WHERE TO ORDER

The publications listed with sales prices may be ordered from: **United Nations Bookshop, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland** and a number of book-stores in the ECE region. Send cheque or money order in US$ made payable to: UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Those publications listed without a sales price may be obtained from the Information Officer, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Editorial

Bringing life to the reforms

The party is over. Like UN/ECE, it was serious if not somewhat austere. With the candles extinguished, what remains is unanimous agreement on the role of the Commission within the United Nations framework and the imperative need to implement the reforms agreed upon. This is indeed imperative, because if the reforms are not implemented the Commission would lose the support of Governments and would risk being carried away by the growing institutional competition which characterizes the international world.

Today the reform has been put on paper in the form of a Plan of Action: this is an indispensable starting-point; however, documents of this type often remain on the shelves and are quickly forgotten in favour of another new idea of reform . . . . We all know this. We therefore have quickly to give life to the reforms in order to reap their fruits. Giving life implies giving both a soul and a body. This is everyone's business, the secretariat's and member States'.

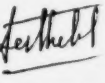
First the body. It is the literal and full implementation of the reforms. This process has already commenced. At the secretariat level, staff have been redeployed in conformity with the Plan of Action, the Industry Division has been abolished and the Special Coordinating Unit has been created. The bureaux of the subsidiary bodies have been informed of the content of the Plan of Action and measures taken to enable the Committees to define their work programmes within allocated resources. Accepting changes in habits is not always easy and the support of delegations is necessary. Fortunately, in recent weeks, it has become apparent that once initial resistance is overcome, the new working methods could impart new impetus to ECE's work and a fresh spirit.

A fresh spirit: that brings us to the soul or heart of the reforms: without a change of state of mind the reforms will remain a formality even when they are applied. A change of state of mind is not easy and here, much remains to be accomplished. Without a doubt, everyone has an ideal concerning what needs to be changed. I would suggest two policy lines.

The first direction: to recognize that the transition process is progressing, even if progress is uneven, and to move on to the establishment of a diversified but integrated Europe; to achieve this goal, each proposal pertaining to integration of the countries in transition merits examination, without suspicion or a priori backing depending on the country forwarding the proposal.

The second direction: to take seriously the word underlying the reforms—flexibility. Flexibility implies that all is not permanent—a corollary of which is that innovations may be introduced. Not accepting initiatives, whether they come from the secretariat or from member countries, will only restrict the Commission's scope.

These two policy lines are both illustrations of the same need: to have confidence in UN/ECE as an institution and to have the flexibility to utilize its proven advantages.



Yves BERTHELOT
21 July 1997

July ***(continued)***

7-17 ECOSOC Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

August

27-29 Working Group on Effects

25-29 Preparatory Committee for the Elaboration of the Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterways

September

1-3 Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)

1-5 Working Party on Road Traffic Safety

8-10 Working Party on Combined Transport

15-17 COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (followed by a Study Tour in Greece, 17-22 September)

15-17 Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)

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